



**May 2025 Newsletter**  
**Chicago Duplicate Bridge**  
**47 W. Polk St., Lower Level**

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**Tax ID #32-0456104**

## **Chicago Duplicate Bridge Moving to the North Side**

On April 29 the Board met and approved a new lease for Chicago Duplicate Bridge at the Century theatre building at Clark and Diversey. The space was formerly occupied by Victoria's Secret and is large enough to hold local tournaments or other events. The lease will be effective on May 1, at which time we will be installing a kitchenette and making other repairs. The move will take place toward the end of June, with a scheduled opening for games as of July 1. We will be looking for volunteers to help with packing, moving, and preparing the space for use. The chess club will not be moving with us.

**\*\*Tuesday, May 6 – Mentor/Mentee game at 6:30 pm\*\***

**\*\*May 5-11 – Stardust Event\*\***

**\*\*May 12-16 – STaC\*\***

**\*\*May 19-21 – Silver Linings\*\***

**Mon, Wed, Thurs – Open Games at 12:15 pm **F2F+****

**Monday, Wednesday – Open Game at 6:30/6:45 pm on **BBO****

**Tuesday, Thursday – Open Games at 6:30 pm **F2F+****

**Friday – 750/NLM Games at 12:15 pm **F2F****

## **Staying in Touch**

[chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoduplicatebridge@gmail.com) is the best way to reach us.

+Reservations for Tuesday and Thursday games please. Email David Schroeder at [dave8459@yahoo.com](mailto:dave8459@yahoo.com) for Tuesday evening games; Matthew Dyer at [msdyer@gmail.com](mailto:msdyer@gmail.com) for

Thursday evening games. The Thursday afternoon game is struggling, so please consider adding this game to your weekly schedule. It is the only downtown Thursday option, and the game is usually small but of high quality. Please RSVP each week if you plan to attend, and we commit to sending out a confirmation email on Wednesday evening or a cancellation if we have insufficient interest. Please get into the habit of checking email before leaving the house.

## **Your Help Needed!**

Moving and preparing a new space to be the central Chicago bridge club costs money. As a nonprofit club owned by its members, Chicago Duplicate Bridge operates on a thin financial margin. We are looking for donations to help cover the cost of installing a kitchenette, making other minor upgrades to the space, and moving. Two generous members have offered to match all contributions up to \$5000 each (a total of \$10,000 from them matched with at least \$10,000 from the rest of us). Please consider making a donation to Chicago Duplicate Bridge, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Donations may be tax deductible. Our ID for tax purposes is 32-0456104.

## **Rank Advancers Celebrated**

On April 3 CDB recognized our many members who have advanced in ACBL rank with lunch and of course a bridge game. Harking back to our days on Orleans, we were treated to a selection of yummy treats, including Barry's famous egg salad and Janet's brownies. As they say, a good time was had by all.



## **Gino Visits CDB!**

April was a month of special days. Eldad "Gino" Ginossar visited the club and played in games on Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. He generously provided hints and went over interesting hands, an informal lesson for all of us. Gino is in Chicago for the US Bridge Championships. It was wonderful to see him at the club again. We all wish him the best in the tournament.



## A Brief Lesson: Negative doubles, and when you cannot use Blackwood

Your hand:

S KJ63

H 93

D AJ3

C AKQ9

You are vulnerable and your opponents are not. Your partner opens 1C in first seat, and your right-hand opponent overcalls 2H.

So you have quite a lot going on: a potential 4-4 spade fit, a potential club fit, and enough points that you should be sniffing at slam. **There is no rush.** You can start with a negative double (which is virtually forcing) and show your values and shape with your next bid.

How many points should a negative double show, and how should partner respond? I like the 7-9-11-13 scheme where a negative double at the 1 level shows 7 high card points; at the 2 level shows 9 points; 3 level, 11points; and 4 level, 13 points.

With any of the family of takeout doubles (which includes takeout, negative, responsive, and support doubles), each side is expected to bid the extent of their hand while assuming partner is minimum. Therefore, your double at the 2 level leads your partner to assume you have 9 points and 4 spades.

Partner bids 4S, agreeing on spades. Wow! How bad was that 2H bid? Your partner should have in the region of 16 playing points (because partner assumes you have only 9, so must have the remainder to get to game), perhaps with shortness somewhere. From your hand, it

looks like you have about 34 playing points, so it's up to you to keep the auction open and explore the possibility of a slam.

So how could the slam fail? Well, you could be off two aces, but that is unlikely. The thing that should scare you is being off the first two heart tricks.

Don't use Blackwood (or any of its variants) with a void. Don't use it if there is the danger of being off two fast losers.

The risk of being off the A and K of hearts is high, so you can't use Blackwood.

A bid of 5C would show the club ace, 5D would show the diamond ace, and 5H would show a heart control, probably the ace or a void (which you obviously don't have). What should 5S mean?

And this is where a rarely encountered convention applies: the *Voluntary Bid of Five of a Major*. By a process of elimination it should show two fast losers in the opponents' suit. It invites your partner to bid 6S with the A or protected K of hearts.

## May Mentor/Mentee Game on the 6th

Our next popular mentor/mentee game is scheduled for **May 6 at 6:30 pm**, F2F. Our evening games use a manual signup process; email [dave8459@yahoo.com](mailto:dave8459@yahoo.com). Please **let Dave know as soon as possible if you plan to attend** the mentor/mentee game so that he can ensure that we have enough mentors for all the mentees.

Mentor night is intended to be nurturing, and we hope to see many of you there. And there's a bonus every month: Director Dave Schroeder bakes a treat—cookies, brownies—whatever strikes his fancy. I/N players are welcome, regardless of whether you have a partner. But it is important to email Dave in advance and we will find you a partner. If you have a partner to play with, great; again, please let Dave know in advance. Mentors: If you are available, email us and we will match you up.

## More Upcoming Special Games!

Again this month CDB will offer several games that offer more MPs than usual and/or pigmented points. At the Stardust Event on May 5-11, all MPs awarded will be 25% Gold and 75% Black. This is the rare opportunity to earn **Gold** points at the home club. The week of May 12-16 is another STaC, with **Silver** points for all games. And there's more: the games on the 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> are more **Silver** Linings games. Hope to see you there!

## Sunday NU Games

There will be a Sunday game at Northwestern on May 4 but no games in Evanston for the remainder of the month. Games WILL be held at the CDB Polk St. location at 12:15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. For further information, check CCBA.

## Solo Players

All games now guarantee partners, so if you feel like showing up for a game at the last minute, you should do so. As always, the further in advance you let the director know, the better your chances of finding a compatible partner.

## Facebook Coordinator Wanted

Chicago Duplicate Bridge has a dormant Facebook page. If you like doing Facebook and Instagram, please contact Matthew to become our Social Media coordinator.

## New or Intermediate Players: I/N Fridays and More!!

Come join us at Teach and Learn on Fridays at CDB. We often have new players who come with little to literally no bridge experience. Don't be afraid that you are "too experienced" or "too new" to benefit from joining the group. If you are looking for more chances to play in a limited-MP game, consider joining our Friday afternoon 750/NLM ((non-Life Master) game.

CDB offers Supervised Play at 10:30 for \$5, followed by a short break for lunch and a shortened (usually 18- or 21-board) 750/NLM game at 12:15. This game now regularly has **4-6 full tables**, so there's a nice spirit of friendly competition. But **you do NOT have to attend the Supervised Play to join the game**. If you come to both, there is no charge for the Supervised Play. This is a great way to practice and see the rules you have learned in actual use. The atmosphere is relaxed and supportive. It's also a great way to meet potential partners, so don't be afraid to come without a partner arranged in advance. Please let us know whether you will be attending Supervised Play and/or the game by contacting Barry Little in advance at [barrylit@gmail.com](mailto:barrylit@gmail.com).

- ❖ Supervised Play
  - Friday F2F
  - 10:30 am
- ❖ 750/NLM games
  - Monday, Wednesday, Friday F2F if demand allows
  - 12:15 pm



- ❖ Mentor game
  - Monthly, first Tuesday evening of the month unless otherwise noted
  - 6:30 pm
- ❖ Brief lesson
  - Thursday prior to 12:15 game

## **Spring Tournaments**

It's finally warming up, and it's a perfect time for a short road trip. May and June are prime time to get out and take advantage of the many opportunities for tournament play within a day's drive of Chicago. The list below is current for Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and eastern Missouri, but if you have an itch for tournament play, check the listings at <http://tournaments.acbl.org/>.

- ❖ US Bridge Championships
  - April 24—May 26
  - Schaumburg, IL
  - Pre-registration required
- ❖ Indianapolis Spring Sectional
  - May 2-4
  - Indianapolis, IN
- ❖ District 13 Madison Regional
  - May 5-9
  - Middleton, WI
- ❖ Green Bay Sectional
  - May 15-17
  - Green Bay, WI
- ❖ St. Louis Spring Sectional
  - May 16-18
  - Olivette, MO
- ❖ The "Champagne" Regional Tournament
  - May 20-24
  - Champaign, IL
- ❖ St. Louis Senior Olympics Bridge
  - May 21
  - Olivette, MO
- ❖ Fort Wayne Sectional
  - May 30-June 1
  - Fort Wayne, IN

- ❖ Woodruff Sectional
  - June 6-8
  - Woodruff, WI
- ❖ The Great Sizzlin' Summer Illinois Regional
  - June 12-16
  - Crystal Lake, IL
- ❖ Door County Sectional
  - June 17-19
  - Egg Harbor, WI
- ❖ Waukesha Summer Sectional
  - June 25-28
  - Waukesha, WI
- ❖ Edwardsville Sectional
  - June 27-29
  - Edwardsville, IL

## Rank Advancers

***Congratulations*** to those who advanced in ACBL rank, as reflected in the latest data release from ACBL. **Steven Wang**, Junior Master, **Josh Zhao**, Club Master; **Ranmit Pantle**, Regional Master; **Jim O'Neil**, Diamond Life Master.

A special congratulations goes to Jim O'Neil. Jim has been with Chicago Duplicate Bridge from its beginnings under names like Lakeshore Bridge Club, and has followed the club as a director from our first home on Sheridan road in the 2000s, to our Franklin location, to our Orleans location, briefly online, and finally at our current home at Dearborn Station. Jim has been our most significant director in terms of number of games.

And he can actually play bridge too—and has had a successful career at local tournaments over the last 40 or so years. We congratulate him on crossing the 5000-point threshold to become a Diamond Life Master.



## Player Achievements

***Congratulations to these players for success in face-to-face games at the club!*** All games Open unless otherwise noted. I/N denotes 750/non-Life Master game. E denotes Evening game. I denotes Individual game movement.

<b>65.00% - 69.99%</b>		
3/31	Paul Prez, Carole Greene	66.00
4/1	Barry Little, Valerie Goodman	65.00
4/3	Cory Perkers, Matthew Dyer	67.26
4/9	Neel French, Janet Nachman	65.16
4/14	Patt Quinn, David Schroeder	66.67
4/18 I/N	Jackie Snuttjer, Betsy Jeffries	67.59
4/24 E	Holly Economos, Matthew Dyer	67.32
4/24 E	Ben Fisk, Ranmit Pantle	65.50
4/30	Barry Little, Jack Hurst	67.13
<b>70%+</b>		
4/3 E		71.07
4/16	Guy Franklin, Carolyn Rowley	73.38
4/17	Eldad Ginossar, Rosede Olsen	71.00